

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 17-30 were pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-10, 17, 18, and 21 were rejected. Claims 3, 5, 7, 19, 20, and 22 were objected to. Claims 23-30 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 18, 19, and 22 have been amended. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

1. Response to Objections to the Specification

Box 9 on the Office Action Summary was marked, indicating that the specification is objected to. However, the Examiner did not raise any objection to the specification in the Detailed Action. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate whether the specification is objected to and, if so, why.

2. Response to Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as being informal. Formalized drawings accompany this response in compliance with 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121(d).

3. Response to Rejections under Section 102

Claims 1, 6, 8-10, 17-18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0146970 by Saldana et al. ("Saldana"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Saldana application was filed on December 22, 2000 and claims priority to applications filed as early as August 22, 2000. The present application was filed on July 10, 2001 and claims priority to Provisional U.S. Application No. 60/217,224 (the "provisional application"), filed July 10, 2000.

Pending independent claims 1 and 6 and dependent claims 8-10, 17-18, and 21 can claim priority back to July 10, 2000, because they are supported by the provisional application. For example, support for independent claim 1 is found in the provisional application at least in the slides on pages 5, 10, and 14 and at page 15, lines 2-11; support for independent claim 6 is found in the provisional application at least at page 15, line 25 to page 16, line 2.

Because independent claims 1 and 6 and dependent claims 8-10, 17-18, and 21 are entitled to a priority date of July 10, 2000, Saldana is not a proper Section 102(e) reference. The Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 6 and dependent claims 8-10, 17-18, and 21 be withdrawn.

4. Response to Rejections under Section 103

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) over Saldana in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,679,055 to Greene et al. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) over Saldana in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,664,985 to Williams et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 2 and 4 are supported by the provisional application and are entitled to a priority date of July 10, 2000. Saldana is not prior art for claims 2 and 4 under Section 102 and cannot be relied on as part of a Section 103 rejection. The Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of dependent claims 2 and 4 be withdrawn.

5. Response to Objections to the Claims

Claims 3, 5, 7, 19-20, and 22 were objected to. Claims 3, 5, 7, and 20 are supported by the provisional application and are entitled to a priority date of July 10, 2000. The Applicant submits that claims 1 and 6, from which these claims depend, are allowable, and asks that claims 3, 5, 7, and 20 be allowed as well.

Claims 19 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of independent claim 1, from which they formerly depended. In addition, claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the selected one of the plurality of procedures is a procedure in the list included in claim 22. The Applicant requests that claims 19 and 22 be allowed.

6. Request for Consideration of IDS

An Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying form PTO-1449 were submitted to the USPTO on January 11, 2002 for the present application. The Applicant's records do not indicate that the Examiner has returned an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner do so.

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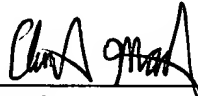
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7. Conclusion

The Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance, and asks that all claims be allowed. The Applicant believes that no fee is due with the present reply. If, however, there are charges or credits, please apply them to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments following last page of this Amendment:
Replacement Sheets (4 sheets - Figs. 1-5)

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-5.

In Figs. 1-5, the drawings have been formalized and are being submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121(d).